

## SECTION V - STATE AND TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

### *State Partnerships*

EPA works closely with environmental and public health agencies in each of the four states in Region 10 to achieve the goals outlined in this plan. A principle mechanism for defining and supporting that work is the PPA process. In addition, Region 10 has worked closely with each state environmental agency over the past year to both incorporate state input into the development of the regional plan and to identify key priority areas for joint state/EPA collaboration.

As described in Appendix A, Region 10 and our state partners are working on four pilot projects as part of the joint planning that is being done in support of this plan. In addition, there are a variety of state specific priorities that Region 10 will be working on over the next three to five years. The timing of this work will vary depending on where each state is in the PPA/PPG process, as described below.

#### Alaska

A Performance Partnership Agreement (PPA) was signed in summer 2003. The previous PPG with ADEC has lapsed.

The following are key multi-year partnership priorities in the State of Alaska:

- **Improve the coordination and delivery of both the State and Federal Environmental Programs** in order to better align resources to achieve common goals. Build consensus on a set of environmental indicators, program performance measures, and funding commitments with the State of Alaska.
- **Greater federal-state-tribal collaboration for implementing the Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP)** in the State of Alaska.
- Development, adoption, approval and attainment of **Water Quality Standards**.
- **Rural Diesel Emissions Health Risk Assessment.** Exposure to stationary source diesel emissions in Alaska villages and rural communities is a unique air quality issue in Region 10. There is no statewide power grid in Alaska and most communities rely on small diesel engines for electrical power. The State of Alaska and EPA Region 10 share a common objective to reduce the risk to public health from toxic air pollutants. Rural power plants in Alaska may represent a significant health risk. We must work together to determine the extent and severity of this risk that is specific to this exposure setting and source type.

#### Idaho

The current PPA was signed in summer 2003 and runs through June 2004. It deals with Water Quality Programs only. The two goals/priorities in Idaho that are included in the 2004 Performance Partnership Agreement between the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and Region 10 are:

- **Improve the surface water quality in areas identified as not supporting their beneficial uses or where threatened and endangered species exist** - This will be achieved by monitoring and data collection, assessment, publishing an Integrated Report (305(b) and 303(d), water quality standards development, and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development. Idaho is maintaining progress in developing TMDLs in accordance with a court-ordered schedule.
- **Ensure Safe Waste Management, Cleanup and Removal at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL)** - This will be achieved by ensuring that transuranic waste (TRU) is properly contained or removed off-site. Information gained from the Pit 9 excavation project and subsequent removal actions will inform development of more cost-effective ways of addressing contamination threats to the Snake River Aquifer.

## **Oregon**

The current PPA was signed in 2002 and runs through June 2004. Negotiations for the next PPA will begin January 23; for the first time, the state wants to sign a PPG as well. The PPA covers air, water, and waste (RCRA). Major priorities include:

- **Protect Oregon's Water** .Clean water and healthy watersheds are priorities for DEQ and EPA. DEQ is shifting to an integrated approach to watershed protection in order to more efficiently and effectively implement its regulatory programs and resolve environmental problems. DEQ's goal is to involve all media offices in collaboratively developing and implementing comprehensive watershed plans, which may include the development and implementation of TMDLs, prioritized water quality permitting, safe management of hazardous wastes, cleanup of contaminated sites, removal of underground storage tanks, protection of groundwater, and minimizing airborne pollution. Incentives, as well as regulation, are needed to encourage action to protect and improve Oregon's watersheds. Incentives might include technical assistance, education, and financial assistance (grants or low interest loans).

DEQ will be needing EPA's support and flexibility in order for this approach to succeed, as the geographic focus of the watershed approach is likely to raise some issues related to the ways priorities are set and compliance is carried out. These issues will become evident as DEQ migrates to the watershed approach over the next few years, and may require PPA revisions from time to time. For example, the environmental priorities in a particular basin may not align with EPA's priorities for the state. Or, the watershed-based vs. statewide focus of the watershed approach may conflict with EPA's expectations that states approach certain issues on a statewide basis.

- **Protect Human Health and the Environment from Toxics**. Human exposure to toxic chemicals is of increasing concern in Oregon. On a daily basis, Oregonians are exposed to toxics through many sources such as urban, agricultural and forest runoff, chemical emissions from cars and trucks, air emissions or water discharges from industrial and municipal treatment plants, global and area-wide air fallout, and through the food chain where persistent toxics can accumulate. DEQ already has a number of efforts underway to help Oregonians reduce the use of toxic chemicals and the amount of hazardous waste generated. The important next step is to develop and implement a consolidated, agency-wide strategy to ensure we are addressing these problems in the most effective and efficient way. In addition, we will initiate or continue work on several high priority projects that seek to resolve toxics problems and enhance our understanding of successful ways to address toxics in the environment.

Putting a greater emphasis on controlling toxics will require DEQ to shift resources from lower priority program activities because of the magnitude and complexity of problems associated with toxics and the costs of monitoring and analysis. DEQ asks that EPA recognize the importance of this work - for today's Oregonians as well as for future generations - and support

## **Washington**

Region 10's PPA with Ecology was signed in July 2003 and runs through June 2005. Three key goals/priorities in Washington state that are included in the 2004 - 2005 Performance Partnership Agreement between the Department of Ecology and Region 10 are:

- **Attainment of water quality standards in all water bodies**. This will be achieved through the completion and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (called Water Cleanup Plans in Washington). Washington is in the middle of a 15 year court monitored schedule to complete all TMDLs. 50 TMDLs are scheduled to be delivered to EPA for approval each year in the PPA.

- **Improve the water quality and ecosystem function in high priority watersheds.** This will be achieved by the state through continued implementation of their local watershed planning act. EPA will provide grant money to fund watershed improvement projects through programs like 319. The state is also devoting a great deal of attention to recovery of threatened and endangered salmon through salmon recovery planning and funding habitat restoration projects through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
- **EPA and Ecology committed to furthering the principles of sustainability** in all of our work under the PPA. This will be achieved by both agencies supporting a gubernatorial executive order on sustainability, by appointing key contacts in each agency and by hosting an annual interagency meeting of sustainability staff.

### **General EPA-State Collaboration**

Region 10 has other major collaborative efforts with our states that have played a role both in the development of this plan and in creating initiatives that are reflected in it. These include:

NWCAP - This is an effort devoted to setting risk based priorities for air pollution control programs. It is described in more detail in Goal 1.

The Pacific NW Director's Meeting - Region 10, the state agencies of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington; and the Canadian Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta meet on a regular basis to discuss regional issues and priorities. Joint planning efforts by the NW states and EPA as part of the overall activities of this group led to the development of the Pilot Projects described below and in Appendix A.

### **State Involvement in Regional Plan Development**

Region 10 has devoted extensive time and energy to joint EPA-state collaboration as part of the development of this plan. For the past several months, our senior management has been working with the environmental agency directors of Oregon, Washington and Idaho and their staffs to garner state participation in the development of this plan; in December, Alaska's state agency also became a partner in this work. Multi-agency meetings were held in September and October to clarify this process and identify joint priorities. Comment letters from the environmental agencies of Alaska, Washington, and Oregon were received in November and December of 2003. The current plan addresses many of those comments. Response letters were sent to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Washington Department of Ecology on April 15 explaining how their comments were addressed. In addition, during the week of April 12<sup>th</sup> regional staff verbally discussed the state comment letters with state planning staff; addressing each comment, and either explained how the comments were addressed, or explained why Region 10 was unable to address them. For example, a number of state comments received were of a more specific nature than that which is appropriate for a strategic document. For many of these comments, Region 10 believes that the PPA process is a more appropriate forum for addressing them.

For the other key area of joint EPA-state planning, the States of Idaho, Oregon and Washington agreed to work with Region 10 on four jointly developed projects that reflect our principal joint priorities over the next few years: 1) Permitting and Compliance; 2) Air Quality Impacts from Diesel; 3) Information Technology; and 4) Agriculture. The initial outlines for three of these initiatives can be found in Appendix A, and we have integrated key elements of these initiatives throughout the Goals narratives in Section II of the plan. These initiatives will be further developed over the next few months and posted on Region 10's strategic planning web page.

## ***Tribal Partnerships***

Environment and human health challenges facing the 271 federally recognized Tribes in Region 10 are as complex and unique as the Tribes themselves. EPA tries to assist in government to government coordination on environmental issues. EPA also administers capacity building grants to tribes for purposes of developing tribal environmental programs. This includes the Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) grant.

Annually Region 10 has awarded approximately \$15-20 million to Tribes through the IGAP to help support the development of elements of a core Tribal environmental protection program. Region 10 received an increase in IGAP funding in FY 2003 that will support our efforts to reach a national goal of each Tribe having established an environmental presence through building capacity towards establishment of their environmental programs.

Region 10 has also entered into TEAs with several Tribal governments. Future Tribal/EPA Agreements (TEAs) will include provisions to empower tribal governments to more fully participate in their future development in areas such as: 1) the exploration for, financing of and operation of new sources of drinking water, 2) the planning, financing, and implementation of tribal solid waste programs, and 3) the planning and financing of upgrades to wastewater collection and treatment systems.

Consultation with Tribal governments has also been a cornerstone of our efforts in establishing this plan. Since the fall of 2002, we have been working with our ROTC and interested Tribes to solicit their input on our strategic directions, and have received general comments from over thirty Tribal governments on environmental issues and directions that we should be focused on. Over the past few months, we provided information on the plan to over 100 tribal leaders during a summit meeting held in October, and distributed hard copies of the plan to about 50 individuals at the conference who expressed an interest in reviewing the plan. Tribal involvement since has been focused on working with EPA Region 10 to revise Objective 5.3 - *Build Tribal Capacity*. In January of 2004, the ROTC participated in a major revision of this section.